



# NEWS RELEASE

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## VCIC ANNOUNCES CHAIR AND RECIPIENTS OF 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL LYNCHBURG HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

*2021 Humanitarian Awards presented by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities  
virtually on May 27, 2021*

(Lynchburg, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Lynchburg Humanitarian Awards. The awards honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds in the Lynchburg community. The 2021 awards will be presented virtually by the Lynchburg Chapter of VCIC on Thursday, May 27, 2021.

### 2021 VCIC Humanitarian Awards Chair

The 2021 VCIC Humanitarian Awards Dinner is chaired by Richard Tugman. Richard is the Interim President and CEO of Centra. He previously was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Piedmont Community Health Plan. Prior to joining PCHP, Richard was the Vice President and General Counsel for C.B. Fleet, Inc., once a Lynchburg headquartered manufacturer of consumer healthcare products. Richard originally qualified as a lawyer in England and after having completed a Masters of Law in the US, re-qualified as an American attorney, admitted to practice in Virginia. His professional career has included private practice in both the US and in England. Richard's experience also includes time in the London and US insurance markets, as well as employment with a subsidiary of General Electric.

### 2021 VCIC Humanitarian Award Recipients

**John S. Capps** became the seventh president of Central Virginia Community College in 2011. Under his leadership, CVCC was a founding partner with Beacon of Hope to provide tuition-free community college to graduates of the Lynchburg City Schools, and the college has adopted open educational resources to help relieve students of the high cost of books. John was involved in establishing the Lynchburg City Schools Early College Program, the Great Expectations Program for foster youth, and the Lynchburg Regional Governor's STEM Academy. His board memberships have included the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, United Way, Goodwill Industries, the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation, the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board, and Beacon of Hope. John also serves as a trustee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

**Owen C. Cardwell, Jr.** is the Rosel Schewel Distinguished Chair of Education at the University of Lynchburg and co-director of the Center for Education and Leadership. Additionally, Owen serves as Pastor at Diamond Hill Baptist Church. As a teenager, he was one of the first African American students to desegregate E.C. Glass High School. Among his many significant contributions, Owen was founder and executive director of the Heroes and Dreams Academy in Richmond, a service-learning based mentoring program for at-risk youth. At New Canaan International Church, which Owen founded over 25 years ago in Henrico, they welcomed inmates on work release from the local jail in a program now replicated nationally. He also co-founded the Family Restoration Network in Ashland, an organization designed to restore fractured families and reconnect incarcerated fathers with their children.

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**Mary G. Holmes** spent over 50 years serving the community as a Registered Nurse. She was one of the first African American nurses hired at UVA Medical Center in a Charge Nurse position, and one of the first African American nurses employed in the Central Virginia Health District. Mary also founded the Sickle Cell Awareness Association of Central Virginia, Inc., served as the first president, and she remains the current President. She also served a term as President of the Statewide Sickle Cell Chapter of Virginia Inc. Her other community service includes the Boards of Directors of The March of Dimes, the Heart and Lung Associations, and the Lynchburg College Community Health Advisory Board. She is a member of the Lynchburg NAACP and Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, serving as a Choir member, Church Clerk, Deaconess, and Church School Teacher.

**The Mitchell Sisters** (*Kathryn M. Drayton, Louise E. Mitchell, Violet O. Mitchell*) are the co-Founders of MDM Networking, Inc., which sponsored the “Pink Auction Luncheon” This event was created to raise awareness in the community about breast cancer and to fund research. Over the last 17 years, the sisters have raised over \$270,000 through the Auction which has been donated to education, research, and medical services for uninsured and underinsured women in the community. By partnering with Centra Mammography and Breast Imaging Services, they have been able to fund thousands of mammograms to local women who are uninsured or underinsured. The sisters have served the community in a variety of ways beyond MDM Networking, Inc. Louise served on the Lynchburg Youth Services Board, Miller Home Advisory Board, Miriam’s House Board, Lynchburg Storm Water Commission, and she presently serves on the Lynchburg Economic Development Authority Board of Directors. Violet is involved with The United Way, Legacy Museum and Africa House. Kathryn served as a board member of the American Baptist Council of Churches.

**Kay and J.P. Vaughan** are lifelong residents of Lynchburg. J.P. was very involved in coaching Little League football and baseball. He also coached football at V.E.S. along with his “day job” at Forehand Realtors, Inc. Kay was an English teacher: first at Dunbar, then at E.C. Glass, and finally at Amelia Pride Alternative School. Since retiring in 2009, Kay has spent her time volunteering at the Awareness Garden and at E.C. Glass. She is most proud of the work she and J.P. have done with the Pink Game, The Wall of Excellence and the Hall of Fame. In all of these endeavors, J.P. and Kay were teammates. The Pink Game is now a tradition at E. C. Glass High School. Each sponsor donates \$100 in honor of a loved one whose life was affected by cancer, and their “player” wears a pink jersey, proudly displaying the names of the honoree, with proceeds supporting the Awareness Garden. J.P. passed away in 2020, and his award is being presented posthumously.

Fifty-four years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition in Central Virginia, “to honor the work of our friends, neighbors, and family members who gave to others the same rights, respect, and dignity that they sought for themselves.” Today, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion. The 86-year-old organization delivers programs to high school students in the region through the Connections Institute, Diversity Dialogue Day, and the Prejudice Awareness Summit. VCIC also provides professional development for many local schools, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success.

The Humanitarian Sponsor of the Awards (*at time of release*) is Piedmont Community Health Plan, and the Benefactor sponsors are Banker Steel Company, BWX Technologies, Inc., Central Virginia Community College, Dodson Pest Control, Gentry Locke Attorneys, HumanKind, Jamerson-Lewis Construction, and the University of Lynchburg.

For more information about the organization or the Awards program, visit [www.inclusiveVA.org](http://www.inclusiveVA.org).

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